


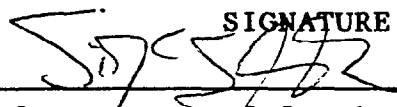

1071

1. CASE NO. 950320CWE7085 F9537016		2. INVESTIGATOR I.D. 8 6 3 1		3. OFFICE CODE 8 6 8		EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
4. DATE OF ACCIDENT 9 5 0 3 1 4		5. DATE INVESTIGATION INITIATED 9 5 0 3 1 7				
6. SYNOPSIS OF ACCIDENT OR COMPLAINT: This on-site IDI involved a portable electric toaster oven whose power cord caught on fire. It was not being used at the time of the fire and had not been used for 2 days prior to the fire. The fire spread to adjacent cabinet and sheetrock wall and self-extinguished. No one was home at the time of the fire. A 20 amp circuit breaker tripped as the result of the incident.						
7. LOCATION (Home, school Etc..) Home 0 1			8. CITY Raceland		9. STATE Louisiana L A	
10a. FIRST PRODUCT Toaster oven 0 2 1 6			11a. Trade/Brand name, model, number Black and Decker, Model #TR51TY2			
10b. SECOND PRODUCT None			11b. Trade/Brand name, model, number Manufacturer & Address None			
12. AGE OF VICTIM 9 9 9		13. SEX (USE CODE) Male -1 Female -2 9 Unknown -3		14. DISPOSITION 0 No injury		15 Injury Diagnosis No injury 7 0
16. BODY PART(S) No injury 9 9		17. RESPONDENT(S) Complainant 1		18. TYPE INVESTIGATION On site -1 Telephone -2 1 Other -3		19. TIME SPENT 1 0.0
20. ATTACHMENTS Photos 1		21. CASE SOURCE Consumer comp. 0 7		22. REVIEWED BY: YR MO DAY 8 2 5 7 9 5 0 4 1 1		
23. PERMISSION TO DISCLOSE NAME(S) CPSC MAY DISCLOSE MY NAME <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPSC MAY NOT DISCLOSE MY NAME <input type="checkbox"/>						
24. NARRATIVE: Attached				25. REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR REVIEW DATE		
<div>AFR/PRVLBR NOTIFIED</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comments made</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments attached</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excisions/Revisions</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm has not requested further notice</div> <div></div>						

17 APR 1995

## U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

## FIELD ACTIVITY COVERSHEET

1. REGION/STATE  FOWR	2. OPERATION (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Contact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	3. DATE 3/17/95
		4. Number (RO) F537016A
5. ESTABLISHMENT  NAME : Black and Decker ADDRESS : 6 Armstrong Rd.      Phone: (203) 926-3000 CITY : Shelton      STATE: CT      ZIP: 06484		
6. RELATED FIRM <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Headquarters <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidiary <input type="checkbox"/> Other NAME: N/A      CITY:      STATE:		
7. PRODUCTS COVERED : Toaster oven		8. OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCTS: N/A
9. ESTABLISHMENT TYPE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer <input type="checkbox"/> Importer <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler <input type="checkbox"/> Own Label Distributor <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Repackager <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		10. ANNUAL PRODUCTION: N/A Product covered \$ Units Other Products \$ Units
11. I.S. BUSINESS % Received N/A % Shipped ____	12. Samples collected T-868-7822	13. MIS CODE 32626
14. HOURS Activity: 10 Travel: 3		
15. REASON FOR ACTIVITY (Assignment Reference): IDI#950320CWE7085		
16. ANNOUNCED <input type="checkbox"/> (Rationale for Announced Inspection) UNANNOUNCED <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
17. EMPLOYEE'S NAME Sidney C. Englander	TITLE Sr. Res. Inv.	SIGNATURE 
18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endorsement <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks <input type="checkbox"/> Summary <input type="checkbox"/> Other This on-site IDI involved a portable electric toaster oven whose power cord caught on fire. The product was not being used at the time of the fire. The product had not been used for 2 days prior to the fire. The fire spread to adjacent cabinet and sheetrock and self-extinguished. No one was home. E/Id: Referred to CECA.		
19. Outreach Table	20. Type of Activity	21. Sub Program
22. Category Table	23. Audience Table	
24. REVIEWERS NAME Claude E. Tolbert	TITLE Supervisory Investigator	SIGNATURE 
25. REVIEW DATE 950411	26. DISTRIBUTION: ORIG: EPDS cc: CECA    CC: DSO    CC: 6/5 TO LDB/CET	

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### IDENTITY OF RESPONDENTS

The respondent in this case was the complainant and homeowner. He supplied the information contained in this report during an on-site visit.

### PRE-INCIDENT

The respondent said that he had been remodeling the house over the past several years. He said that the house was approximately 30 years old. He said that about 6-7 years ago he had the house rewired by a licensed electrician. He said that the electrician replaced the original fuse panel box with a circuit panel box as shown in the attached photos 19 and 20.

The respondent said that the house was wired with copper wire. He said that he had never experienced any electrical problems prior to the toaster oven fire. The respondent further stated that a licensed electrician wired the built-in oven located in the kitchen adjacent to the where the toaster oven was located.

The respondent stated that on the morning of the fire, he and his wife left the home between 7:00am and 7:30am.

The toaster oven had not been used on that morning. The last time it had been used was two days prior to the fire. The wife said that her family used the toaster oven approximately 3 times per week. She said that the toaster mode was the predominate use as opposed to the broiler mode.

The toaster oven was located on top of the kitchen counter as shown in the attached photo #14. The counter top was in the process of being remodeled. At the time of the fire, it was only a wooden base. The finished counter top had not yet been installed. Also, the walls in the kitchen and directly behind the toaster oven were still bare sheetrock as shown in the attached photos 16-18.

The toaster oven was plugged into the wall outlet shown in the attached photos 17 and 18. An electric coffee maker was also plugged into this outlet. No other appliances were plugged into this outlet.

The respondent said that the coffee maker had been used on the morning of the fire. The respondent and his wife said that they did not notice anything out of the ordinary when the coffee maker was used on the morning of the fire. They also did not notice anything out of the ordinary when the toaster oven was last used two days prior to the fire.

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The toaster oven and the coffee maker were left plugged into the kitchen wall outlet at all times. No extension cord was used with either appliance.

The respondent said that he returned home at 3:00pm on the day of the fire. He came home to pick up his son and brought the son back to work with him. The respondent said that he did not notice anything out of the ordinary when he went home to pick up his son. He further stated that his son did not use the toaster oven on the day of the fire.

The respondent's wife came home at approximately 6:00pm. She did not notice anything out of the ordinary. She went to her neighbor's house at approximately 6:30pm. She still did not notice anything out of the ordinary when she left the house for her neighbor's house. She said that when she left her house, no one else was in the house. She said that she made sure all the lights were off in the house when she went to the neighbor's house.

The wife did not use the toaster oven or the coffee maker during her stay in the house from 6:00pm to 6:30pm.

#### INCIDENT

The exact sequence of events at the time of the fire are not known since no one was home at the time the fire started.

#### POST-INCIDENT

The respondent's wife returned home from her neighbor's house at approximately 9:00pm. When she opened the front door she immediately noticed that the house was filled with thick smoke.

She entered the house and turned on all the lights in an attempt to locate the source of the smoke. She went throughout the house but could not see any flames. However, she noticed that the kitchen cabinet adjacent to the toaster oven was charred. She said that the charring she observed was not glowing or smoking from heat.

The wife telephoned her husband and told him to come home from work. The fire department was not called since the fire had self extinguished by the time the wife had entered the house at approximately 9:00pm.

The respondent and his wife ventilated the house to remove the smoke. There was soot covering all surfaces throughout the house. They had to have their furniture cleaned and had to paint the ceiling due to the soot accumulation.

The respondent said that a 20 amp had tripped as a result of the

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fire. See the attached photos 19 and 20.

On the day after the fire, the respondent talked with the manager of the Wal-Mart store from where they purchased the toaster oven approximately 1-1/2 years prior to the fire. He also showed the damaged toaster oven to the manager, Mr. Mike Michel. Mr. Michel told the respondent that he should contact the manufacturer of the toaster oven, Black and Decker and he gave the respondent the Black and Decker telephone number located in Shelton, CT. Mr. Michel did not tell the respondent whether or not he was aware of similar problems with this model of toaster oven.

The respondent told the Wal-Mart manager that he wanted a replacement toaster oven. Mr. Michel did give the respondent another toaster oven but only after the respondent gave him the Black and Decker toaster oven that was involved in the fire.

The respondent then contacted Black and Decker, Shelton, CT and spoke with a female named Sandy. The respondent explained to this Black and Decker employee the circumstances of the fire incident involving the toaster oven. The Black and Decker employee stated that Black and Decker would need the toaster oven involved in the incident. The respondent told her that he would obtain the toaster oven back from Wal-Mart.

The respondent also contacted the CPSC New Orleans Resident Post per instructions from a State Fire Marshall employee that he had spoken to about the fire incident. He was told by this investigator to obtain the toaster oven from Wal-Mart so that it could be collected and examined by CPSC.

After speaking with the CPSC New Orleans Resident Post, the respondent spoke to other Black and Decker employees about the incident. One of those employees was a Mr. Johnny DeSimon, 1(800)762-6672. Mr. DeSimon wanted to know the details of the fire, the product involved and the damage that occurred. He also wanted the toaster oven involved in the fire. The respondent told Mr. DeSimon that he had contacted CPSC about the incident and that CPSC wanted the toaster oven for examination.

The respondent said that Mr. DeSimon contacted his wife the following day after he had spoken with him and Mr. DeSimon told her that the toaster oven was hers and that she could do whatever she wanted with it as far as letting CPSC obtain it and examine it. Mr. DeSimon did tell the respondent's wife that maybe a Black and Decker representative would contact the CPSC New Orleans Resident Post about at least taking some photographs of the toaster oven prior to it being shipped to the CPSC laboratory.

The respondent said that during his telephone conversations with

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the above mentioned Black and Decker representatives, he asked them if there had been any problems or recalls of this toaster oven. He said that they told him that there had been no recalls or problems with any models of Black and Decker toaster ovens.

During his conversation with Mr. DeSimon, the respondent told him that it appeared that the fire originated in the middle of the toaster oven's power cord. The respondent said that Mr. DeSimon told him that the toaster oven's power cord was manufactured by someone other than Black and Decker. He also told the respondent to keep track of their expenses concerning this fire incident.

#### PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

The toaster oven was purchased new from Wal-Mart, Matthews, LA about 1-1/2 years prior to the fire incident. It is a Black and Decker model #TR51TY2 manufactured in Shelton, CT. It operates on 120 volts, 1500 watts, 50-60 Hz, AC only. It has a power cord that measures 25-1/2" long. The cord has a non-polarized 2 pronged male plug. See the attached photos 10-13.

Labeling on the power cord states "E75809 16/2 HPN HEATER CORD".

The toaster oven measures 14-3/4" wide by 7-1/2" wide by 7-1/2" high.

There are two separate control knobs on the front of the toaster: one for the broiler which ranges from 0 degrees to 500 degrees (this is the top knob); the second lower knob is for toast and ranges from LIGHT to DARK. There is also a lever that moves up and down between the two knobs. This is the on/off switch for the toaster section of the toaster oven. See the attached photo #6.

After bringing the toaster oven to the New Orleans Resident Post, it was noticed that this lever was in the partial down position. After this position was noticed, this investigator contacted the respondent's home and spoke with the respondent's wife about the possibility of this on/off lever being left in the partial down position.

The wife stated that she never experienced this lever remaining in the down position. She said that this lever would automatically pop up to the off position when the toaster reached the heat level that was dialed in on the lower toaster knob. She said that if the lever would hypothetically remain in the down (on) position, she would know this because any remaining toast crumbs at the bottom of the toaster oven would most probably begin to smoke and would set off her smoke detector. She said that her smoke detector is very sensitive to smoke and goes off occasionally when she is cooking in her conventional oven.

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**STANDARDS INFORMATION**

According to labeling on the bottom of the toaster oven the product was UL listed 228E. See the attached photos 8 and 9.

**SAMPLES COLLECTED**

The toaster oven was collected as sample #T-868-7822. The respondent requests that the toaster oven be returned to him after CPSC examination and testing. He needs it to return to Wal-Mart so that he can receive a replacement unit. The Wal-Mart manager told the respondent that he will not give him a replacement unit without the old one being returned to him.

This investigator informed the respondent that his request would be noted in this report.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. CPSC Authorization for Release of Name form dated 3/24/95
2. Copy of C/R#T-868-7822
3. Consumer Product Incident Report #F537016A dated 3/17/95
4. Photos and Negatives
5. DSO assignment map dated 3/20/95

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U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

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AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF NAME

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Thank you for assisting us in collecting information on a potential product safety problem. The Consumer Product Safety Commission depends on concerned people to share product safety information with us. We maintain a record of this information, and use it to assist us in identifying and resolving product safety problems.

We routinely forward this information to manufacturers and private labelers to inform them of the involvement of their product in an accident situation. We also give the information to others requesting information about specific products. Manufacturers need the individual's name so that they can obtain additional information on the product or accident situation.

Would you please indicate on the bottom of this page whether you will allow us to disclose your name. If you request that your name remain confidential, we will of course, honor that request. After you have indicated your preference, please sign your name and date the document on the lines provided.



You are hereby authorized to disclose my name and address with the information collected on this case.



My identity is to remain confidential.

Kurt P. Bourgeois  
(Signature)

3-24-94  
(Date)



Figure 6, Appendix 1

U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION			
SAMPLE COLLECTION REPORT			
1. Flag		2. Date Collected	
Section 15(b)		3/24/95	
		3. Sample type & number	
		[X] Physical T-868-7822	
		[ ] Documentary	
4a. Product name		4b. Model	
Toaster oven		TR51TY2	
		4c. NISS	
		0216	
		5. Assignment ref.	
		950320CWE7085	
6. Complete for import samples		7. NIS	
a. Port of Entry : N/A		32626	
b. Entry # & date :		8. Hours:	
c. Country of Origin :		a. Activity 4	
d. HSUSA code :		b. Travel 1	
e. Customs Contact :		9a. Home RO	
		FOER	
		9b. Collecting RO	
		FOWR	
10. Sample Cost		11. Invoice value of lot	
No charge		N/A	
		12. Size of lot	
		1 unit	
13. Manufacturer/Importer		14. Shipper/Foreign Mfr.	
Black and Decker		[ (Retailer) ]	
6 Armstrong Rd.		Wal-Mart	
Shelton, CT 06484		Matthews, LA	
ID #		ID#	
		15. Dealer/Import Broker	
		[ (Complainant) ]	
		Kurt Bourgeois	
		128 Cross Timbers Lane	
		ID# Raceland, LA 70395	
16. Supporting documents attached:			
a. Invoice # & date: N/A			
b. Date Shipped: N/A			
c. Shipping record # & date: N/A			
d. Affidavit signer's name, title & date: N/A			
17. Product Identification: portable toaster oven labeled "BLACK & DECKER Toast-R-Oven/Broiler Continuous Cleaning **MODEL NO. TR51TY2 SHELTON, CONN.**UL TOASTER LISTED 228F***"			
18. Reason for collection & analysis needed: FHSA CPSA <sub>xx</sub> PFA PPPA RSA			
Collected as F/U to IDI#950320CWE7085. Determine if power cord shorted.			
19. Summary of Field Screening:			
N/A			
20. Sample Size, Method of Collection: Spl. consists of 1 unit obtained from complainant during on-site IDI.			
21. Identification on sample		22. Identification on seal	
"T-868-7822 3/24/95 SCE"		"T-868-7822 4/4/95 Sidney C. Englander"	
23a. Sample delivered to		23b. Date	
Federal Express (Harahan, LA)		4/4/95	
		24. Orig. report/records sent to	
		FOER	
25. Laboratory/Office: ESHL [ ] HSHL [ ] CERM [ ] CECA [X] OTHER [ ]			
26. Remarks Spl. kept locked in NOL storage room until sealed. Complainant requests that oven be sent back to him after CPSC has finished examination. He needs it to give back to Wal-Mart in order for Wal-Mart to give him a replacement unit. Send to address in item #15. Attached: Rec. for Spls., copy of IDI#950320CWE7085, DSO assignment map.			
27. Related Samples None			
28a. Collector's name, title & employee #		28b. Collector's signature & date	
Sidney C. Englander, Sr. Res. Inv.		[Signature] 4/4/95	
8631			
29a. Reviewer's name, title & employee #		29b. Reviewer's signature & date	
Claude E. Tolbert, SPSI		[Signature] 4/10/95	
Distribution: Orig [ ] Lab [ ] Fiscal [ ] Data [ ] Mgr [ ] Other [ ]			

**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**

**CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT**

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT Kurt Bourgeois		2. TELEPHONE NO. (Home) (work) 504/537-5574	
3. Street address 128 Cross Timbers Lane		4. City State Zip Code Baceland Louisiana 70395	
5. DESCRIBE ACCIDENT SITUATION OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES: Com- said that the toaster oven turned on by itself and it's power cord melted. Wall and wall studs behind the toaster oven also were charred. The fire self extinguished. No one was home at time of incident. House was full of smoke. 30 amp circuit breaker tripped. Complainant contacted Black and Decker and was told that someone would get back to him. Toaster oven had not been used for 2 days prior to the incident. Complainant took the toaster oven back to Wal-Mart and was given a similar one. However, he retrieved the oven from Wal-Mart and is holding for CPSC's examination.			
6. DATE OF INCIDENT 3/15/95	7. If injury or near miss: AGE SEX INJURY N/A		8. VICTIM Name: N/A Relationship:
9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT Toaster oven		10. BRAND NAME Black and Decker	
11. MANUFACTURE / DISTRIBUTOR NAME: Black and Decker 5 Armstrong Rd. Shelton, CT ADDRESS: TELEPHONE: 1-800-231-9786		12. MODEL SERIAL NO.'s Unknown	
14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES. If yes, before or after the incident? After DESCRIBE: The power cord insulation melted		13. DEALER'S NAME: Wal-Mart ADDRESS: Matthews, LA TELEPHONE:	
		15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USED <input type="checkbox"/> DATE PURCHASED : Unknown AGE: 1-1/2 yrs.	
		16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: Unknown	
17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO, If no do you plan on contacting them? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO OTHER:	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO DISPOSITION:	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

**FOR ADMINISTRATION USE**

20. DATE RECEIVED 3/17/95	21. RECEIVED BY (Name/office) Sidney C. Englander, FOWE/MOL	22. DOCUMENT NO. F537016A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION 950320CWE 7085 SECT. 01 1995		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 0216 F537016A
25. DISTRIBUTION O: FOWE CC: CET		26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE Claude E. Tolbert Sr., Supv. Inv.